VZCZCXRO0469 PP RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHNEH DE RUEHNE #0577 0851059 ZNR UUUUU ZZH P 261059Z MAR 09 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5905 INFO RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC RHHJJPI/PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1629 RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 4470 RUEHCI/AMCONSUL KOLKATA 3687 RUEHNEH/AMCONSUL HYDERABAD 0387 RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 2024 RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 5907 RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 2472 RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 9389 RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 3514 RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 6115 RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7762 RHOVVKG/COMSEVENTHFLT RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

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TAGS: KMDR KPAO PGOV PREL IN

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ, U.S.A.; NEW DELHI.

This countrywide cable reports on relevant media reaction/opinion from India's large non-English press. The Mission reports on English-language media via email through the daily "Early Edition" summary.

IRAQ

11. "TRAQ IN SEARCH OF PEACE," commentary in March 25 DAINIK JAGRAN Hindi daily by Vinay Kaura: "The U.S. military mission has completed six years in Iraq. Both the Iraqi people and the U.S. are battle-weary and fed up. The political scenario in Iraq is critical, with ethnic and sectarian power struggles. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is the only politician who can unite the country. But Kurds are not in favor of a powerful federal government... Maliki has the tough challenge of striking a balance between meeting the demands of different factions and maintaining Iraq's unity. Osama has declared a U.S. troop withdrawal by 2011. America's first test will be in June, when U.S. troops will leave the cities and Iraqi forces will take charge."

U.S.A.

12. "OBAMA'S POSITIVE STATEMENT", editorial in March 25 right-of-center Urdu daily RASHTRIYA SAHARA: "President Obama has brought in positive policy changes, igniting the hope that international conflicts resulting from U.S.

policies may subside. Obama is envisaging a new Afghan policy, aimed at economic development and progress. It is early to predict how much success he will have, but his efforts are praiseworthy. His statements are appreciated by his opponents, including the Iranian leadership and even Hamas. If Obama can bring about peace, his place in history is assured."